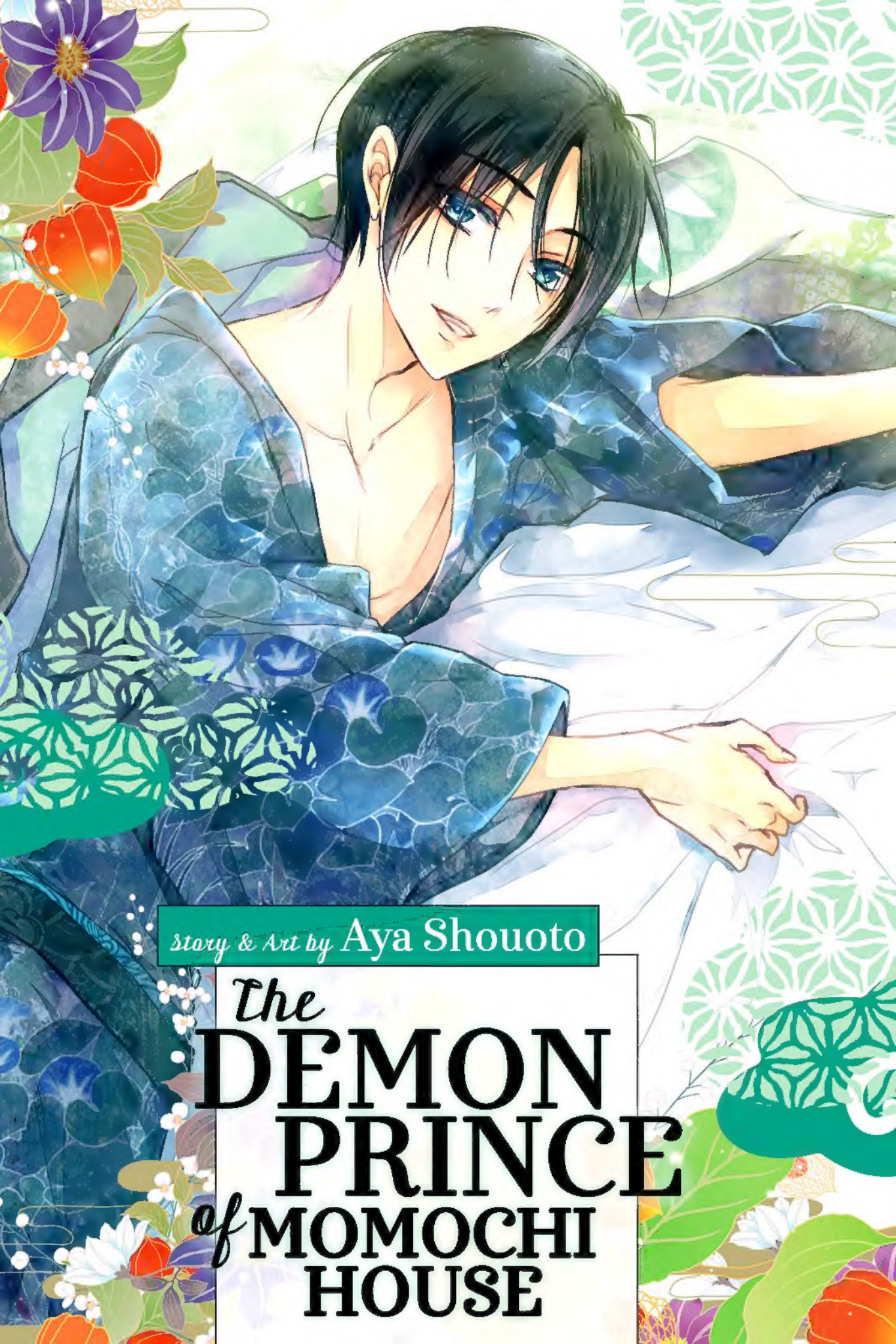
The
DEMON
PRINCE
of MOMOCHI
HOUSE
5
Story & Art by
Aya Shouoto



Story & Art by Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Ephemeral Waters of Past and Present: Part 1

CHAPTER 16

Ephemeral Waters of Past and Present: Part 1

CHAPTER 16

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE 5

Contents

CHAPTER 16 Ephemeral Waters of Past and Present: Part 1 | 007

CHAPTER 17 Ephemeral Waters of Past and Present: Part 2 | 045

CHAPTER 18 Enjoying the Cool Evening Breeze?! A Scare Dare | 087

CHAPTER 19 Jealousy and Love | 127

The Mysterious Residents of Momochi House

Aoi Nanamori

When he was 7 years old, he wandered into Momochi House and was chosen as the Omamori-sama. He transforms into a nue to perform his duties, but it seems this role was meant for Himari.

Omamori-sama (Nue)

An ayakashi, or demon, with the ears of a cat, the wings of a bird, and the tail of a fox. As the Omamori-sama, the nue protects Momochi House and eliminates demons who make their way in from the spiritual realm.

Ise

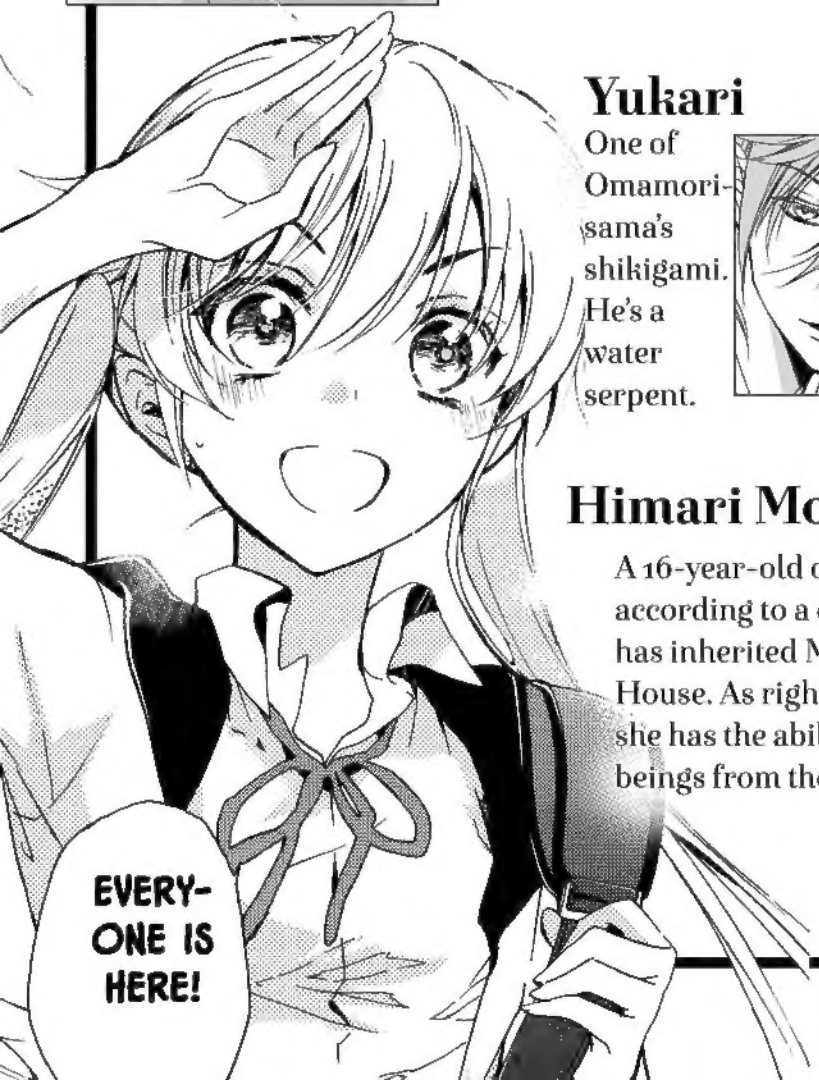
One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's an orangutan.

Yukari

One of Omamori-sama's shikigami. He's a water serpent.

Himari Momochi

A 16-year-old orphan who, according to a certain will, has inherited Momochi House. As rightful owner, she has the ability to expel beings from the house.



Lesser Yokai

Momochi House: Story Thus Far

Himari still has much to learn about Momochi House and its inhabitants. She meets Aoi's childhood friend, Hayato Hidaka, the only person with any recollection of Aoi's past. But the Hidaka family is cursed by fox spirits. When Himari tries to help Hayato, she angers one of the fox spirits and gets into trouble! The nue frees Hayato from the curse, but all Hayato's memories of Aoi are lost... After being reprimanded by the nue, the fox spirits turn over a new leaf and move into Momochi House. The eldest brother, Tamamo, becomes a member of the household, but a box that reveals one's innermost thoughts is left by Kasha and creates chaos. Just when things are returning to normal, Yukari reveals his shocking past!

SHEEN
IT'S SUMMER.
MOMOCHI HOUSE DOESN'T HAVE AIR CONDITION-ING OR ELECTRIC FANS.
IT'S HOT...
FLOP
REALLY HOT...
RWL
FWAP
FWAP
STOP COMPLAINING ABOUT THE HEAT! THAT ONLY MAKES IT FEEL HOTTER!
VUP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT IT THE MOST!
Plus you look hot and stuffy.
It's hot.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
ZUSHI, WHY ARE YOU IN HUMAN FORM?
FWIP
FWIP
IT'S TOO HOT FOR FEATHERS!
FLUFF
FLUFF

COLD ALMOND JELLY!
Thanks you, Yukari!
OH! HOW NICE OF YOU!
I BROUGHT A COLD TREAT.
WHY IS EVERYONE LYING AROUND?
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE HEAT AFFECTS YOU AT ALL, YUKARI.
Thank you.
I'D LIKE TO SAY, "A CLEAR MIND IS FREE FROM PAIN."
I DON'T MIND THE HEAT BECAUSE I'M A WATER AYAKASHI.
YUKARI...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WORKS...
Yummy
I USED TO BE HUMAN.
I BECAME AN AYAKASHI FOR THE SIN OF EATING HUMAN FLESH.
HE WAS INTER-RUPTED

HOW DOES A HUMAN BECOME AN AYAKASHI?
KLAK
I'LL CURSE YOU!
VUP
...WHEN TAMAMO WOKE UP. IT HASN'T COME UP AGAIN.
I'M CONCERNED, BUT I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD ASK ABOUT IT.
WHATEVER EVERYONE IS EATING LOOKS GOOD.
AOI!!
WHAT? WHAT?!
I BEG YOU!!
PLEASE!
GLOMP
TAKE US TO A PLACE WHERE IT'S COOL!
HUH?

THE REAR SCREEN?
I'M NOT SURE IT SHOULD BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE...
YOU MEAN THE REAR SCREEN?
WHAT?
PLEASE, AOI!
IF YOU FASTEN THAT THING, WE CAN GO RIGHT TO THE WATERING HOLE!
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME, ISN'T IT, HIMARI?
THIS SLIDING DOOR IS CALLED THE "REAR SCREEN."
THERE ARE MANY MYSTERIOUS ROOMS IN MOMOCHI HOUSE, BUT THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL DOOR.
IT CONNECTS THIS WORLD TO DIFFERENT PLACES IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM WHERE AYAKASHI RESIDE.
IT'S GOOD TO TAKE SOME TIME TO RELAX ONCE IN A WHILE, AOI.
YUKARI TOO...
WAIT A MOMENT AND I'LL MAKE LUNCH TO BRING ALONG.
!
MAYBE WE SHOULD ALL TAKE A LITTLE TRIP.
I GUESS IT'S SETTLED THEN.

THE WORLD WHERE AYAKASHI RESIDE...
POK
THE SPIRITUAL REALM...
SO YOU'D BETTER KEEP THE HEADPIECE ON.
THIS AGAIN?
SHUU
IT'S THE ONLY PLACE WHERE AOI CAN VENTURE OUTSIDE MOMOCHI HOUSE.
I'M OPENING IT.
FWI
SH
SHUK
COME.

WE'RE HERE.
THIS PLACE IS MUCH LARGER THAN THE ROOM I WAS LURED INTO BY THAT OLD CHERRY TREE DEMON
WOW! IT'S HUGE.
Amazing
YOU CAN RELAX HERE.
WE'RE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM, BUT THIS PLACE IS SAFE IT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE GROUNDS AT THE ESTATE.
ONLY THE HANDLES REMAIN
SOOF
KLAK

It's like bobbing for apples!
WHY IS IT SO CROWDED?
ONLY HARMLESS AYAKASHI PLAY HERE...
HUH?
TEEM
TEEM
IT'S EVEN HOTTER HERE!
THRONG
IT WASN'T THIS CROWDED LAST TIME...
MRMR
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
I KNOW A GOOD SPOT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
SHALL WE LOOK ELSE-WHERE?
MAN, THIS ISN'T RELAXING AT ALL!
...
THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WE CAN STILL SWIM!
MRMR
THE OTHER WATERING HOLES ARE ALL POLLUTED...
MRMR
MRMR
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

...
A SECRET WELL?
WHAT THE...? THIS IS THE MOMOCHI HOUSE WELL.
DO ON
THIS WAY.
FWSSS
GAH!
SHOU
SHALL WE?
AAAAH!

A BEAUTIFUL WATER-FALL...!
THE WATER IS ICE COLD!
IT'S SO NICE!
I'm revived!
SPLASH
HE'S RIGHT.
IT'S COOL AND REFRESHING.

I DON'T WANT TO GET DRENCHED EITHER.
REALLY?
THEN ...
I'LL HELP YUKARI PREPARE LUNCH.
SPLISH SPLASH
I KNOW!
YEAH. THOSE TWO WILL GET YOU.
PLUS...

AREN'T YOU COMING IN, AOI?
PLASH
IT'S SO NICE HERE. I THINK I'LL FINISH THIS BOOK.

WE'RE OUTSIDE MOMOCHI HOUSE.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, I WANT TO BE BY HIS SIDE...

THIS SPRING ISN'T POPULAR WITH AYAKASHI.
THEY CALL THIS PLACE THE "MAN-EATING SWAMP."
JOLT
THIS SURE IS A GREAT SPOT. IT'S LIKE A PRIVATE PARTY.
YOU'RE THE BEST, YUKARI!
You're not even a man Don't be a sissy.
GLUB GLUB
OH... SO THIS PLACE...
YES.

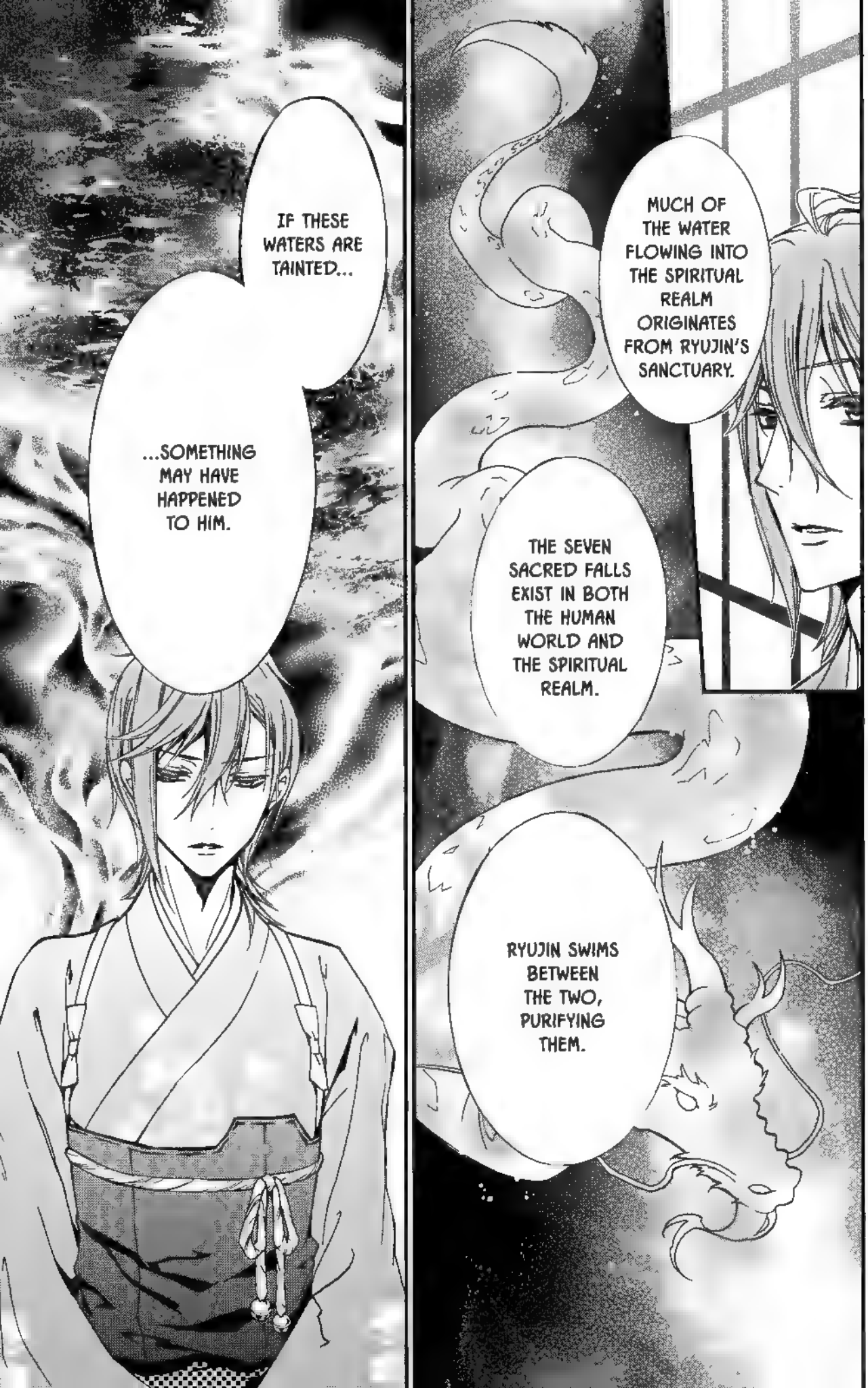
WHEN YUKARI...
...STOPPED BEING HUMAN...
I WAS ALLOWED TO LIVE HERE WHEN I BECAME AN AYAKASHI LONG AGO.
IT'S ONE OF THE SEVEN SACRED FALLS OF RYUJIN, THE DRAGON GOD.

THIS IS A SMALL SPRING, BUT THE NAME IS A DETERRENT.
IT KEPT THE OTHER DEMONS AWAY.
BUT THE WATER IS VERY CLEAN.
I DRAW THIS WATER FOR OUR HOUSE-HOLD USE.

*Japanese version of Aesop's fable, "The Honest Woodcutter"

GOOSH
YUCK! TAMAMO JUST PEED IN HERE!
THEN WE SHOULD ALL BE THANKFUL FOR THIS WATER.
?!
IT WASN'T ME! I CAN'T PEE THAT MUCH!
PLASH
PLASH
KIDS WILL BE KIDS.
DON'T TEASE HIM TOO MUCH, ISE...
IT'S NOT THAT!
LOOK.
IT'S SPREAD-ING.
THE COLOR OF THAT WATER IS UNUSUAL...
EVERYONE OUT!

TAINTED WATER?
IT'S POISONOUS. IT EATS AWAY AT THE FLESH OF AYAKASHI.
IT MUST BE WELLING UP FROM UNDERNEATH THE SPRING.
POISON-OUS...
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO YOUR SPRING?
...
ACTU-ALLY...
...YUKARI'S SPRING MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONE.
I OVERHEARD THE LESSER YOKAI COMPLAINING ABOUT WATER BECOMING POLLUTED.
THE OTHER WATERING HOLES COULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS AS WELL.

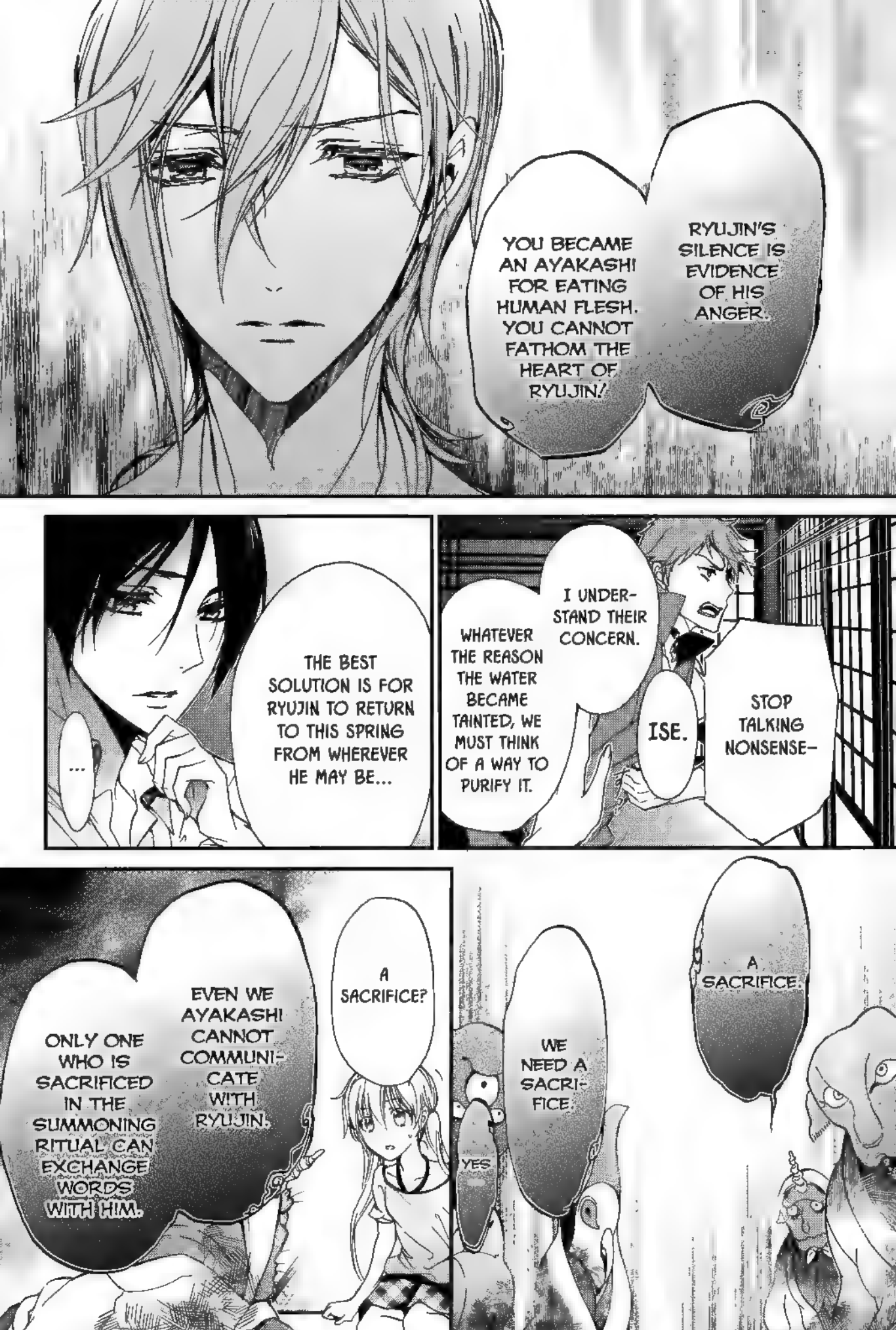

IF THESE WATERS ARE TAINTED...
...SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED TO HIM.
MUCH OF THE WATER FLOWING INTO THE SPIRITUAL REALM ORIGINATES FROM RYUJIN'S SANCTUARY.
THE SEVEN SACRED FALLS EXIST IN BOTH THE HUMAN WORLD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM.
RYUJIN SWIMS BETWEEN THE TWO, PURIFYING THEM.

RYUJIN IS YOUR... MASTER, RIGHT?
YOU MUST BE WORRIED.
MASTER? I AM AN AYAKASHI. HE IS EVEN MORE THAN A PARENT TO ME.
IT MAY SOUND PRESUMPTUOUS TO SAY THIS AS A FORMER HUMAN, BUT I BELONG TO RYUJIN.
THOUGH...
...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A LONG TIME.
SINCE YOU CAME TO MOMOCHI HOUSE?
YES.
I'VE RETURNED TO THIS SPRING SEVERAL TIMES, BUT I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED HIM...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THESE WATERS HAVE BECOME TAINTED.
THE DRAGON GOD IS ANGRY.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
WE LIVE IN THIS AREA.
VMP

...WHO IS MEANT TO WATCH OVER THIS SPRING HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR TOO LONG.
RYUJIN IS ANGRY BECAUSE THAT WATER SERPENT...
IF ALL THE WATERS IN THESE PARTS BECOME POLLUTED, WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE.
SO THIS SPRING IS POLLUTED NOW TOO.

THEN WHY HASN'T RYUJIN APPEARED?
I HAVE ALWAYS FULFILLED MY DUTIES AS GUARDIAN OF THIS SPRING.
...RYUJIN ORDERED ME TO SERVE AT MOMOCHI HOUSE.
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT...
...


RYUJIN'S SILENCE IS EVIDENCE OF HIS ANGER.
YOU BECAME AN AYAKASHI FOR EATING HUMAN FLESH. YOU CANNOT FATHOM THE HEART OF RYUJIN!
...
THE BEST SOLUTION IS FOR RYUJIN TO RETURN TO THIS SPRING FROM WHEREVER HE MAY BE...
I UNDERSTAND THEIR CONCERN.
WHATEVER THE REASON THE WATER BECAME TAINTED, WE MUST THINK OF A WAY TO PURIFY IT.
ISE.
STOP TALKING NONSENSE-
A SACRIFICE?
EVEN WE AYAKASHI CANNOT COMMUNICATE WITH RYUJIN.
ONLY ONE WHO IS SACRIFICED IN THE SUMMONING RITUAL CAN EXCHANGE WORDS WITH HIM.
A SACRIFICE.
WE NEED A SACRIFICE.
YES.

THAT WATER SERPENT THERE
...WAS ONCE A HUMAN SACRIFICE FOR RYUJIN.
YUKARI
THE SACRIFICE MUST BE A HUMAN
MRMR
YES
YES
MRMR
WE'LL HAVE TO ABDUCT ONE FROM SOME-WHERE
A TASTY ONE
PLEASE CALM YOURSELVES WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY
I'LL DO IT

SWIK
I'LL BE THE SACRIFICE.
HIMARI ...!
A HUMAN!
THERE WAS A HUMAN AMONG US.
PERFECT!
THIS YOUNG GIRL WILL BE OUR SACRIFICE.
ENOUGH!

THIS GIRL IS A DESCENDENT OF MOMOCHI.
AS A SERVANT OF MOMOCHI HOUSE, I CANNOT ALLOW HER TO RISK HER LIFE, EVEN TO APPEASE RYUJIN.
MRMR
BUT
MRMR
HIMARI.
THE SUMMONING RITUAL IS DANGEROUS. YOU MUST OFFER YOUR SOUL TO RYUJIN.
IT'S NOT AN ACT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.
LET ME TRY TO SPEAK TO RYUJIN... SOMEHOW...
YUKARI...! YOU'RE SO PALE!
...!
SLUMP
YUKARI!

YUKARI!
HOLD
KLAK
KLAK
YUKARI IS THE GUARDIAN OF THIS SPRING, AND THIS PLACE IS THE SOURCE OF HIS SPIRITUAL POWER.
THE TAINTED WATER IS TAKING A HUGE TOLL ON HIM.
AOI...

I WANT TO SERVE AS THE SACRIFICE.
I CAN'T JUST DO NOTHING WHILE YUKARI GROWS WEAKER.
NO.
YUKARI TOLD YOU, DIDN'T HE? RYUJIN IS A DRAGON GOD.
HE'S IMMUNE TO HUMAN REASON. IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS.
UNDER-STAND, HIMARI?
YOU MAY INTERACT WITH AYAKASHI AT MOMOCHI HOUSE AND LIVE BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS...
...BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THEIR POWER.
THE WAYS OF SPIRITUAL BEINGS ARE AS MYSTERIOUS TO HUMANS AS DARKNESS ITSELF.
HUMANS SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED.
...
BUT YUKARI KNOWS BOTH WORLDS.
I CAN SEE HE'S SUFFERING.

I CANNOT SEE INTO RYUJIN'S HEART.
THIS IS WHERE YUKARI LIVED ON HIS OWN?
IT'S QUIET AND CLEAN, BUT ISOLATED...
THE AYAKASHI STAYED AWAY FROM THIS SPRING, SO YUKARI WAS HERE ALL BY HIMSELF.
BUT RYUJIN ORDERED HIM TO GO TO MOMOCHI HOUSE.
I WANT TO BELIEVE RYUJIN'S INTENTIONS WERE GOOD.
I WANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, AOI!
WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS...
...BEFORE THE TAINTED WATERS SPREAD.
I KNOW...
...BUT...

B-BUMP
LISTEN, HIMARI.
IF ANY SPIRITUAL BEING WISHES YOU HARM...
PLEASE UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL TOO.
I DON'T WANT TO PUT YOU IN DANGER.
HUG

...I WILL EXORCISE IT.
EVEN IF IT'S RYUJIN.
AOI...
THANK YOU, AOI.
SO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T BE RECKLESS.

I SUMMON YOU...

I OFFER UNTO YOU A SACRIFICE.
...SOURCE OF THE SEVEN SACRED WATERFALLS...
...COME FORTH TO THIS SPRING...
...RYUJIN.

WE CAN'T GET NEAR YOU BECAUSE OF THAT POLLUTED WATER.
DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH, HIMARI.

...
KLAK
...
RHHHH
...
...
RYUJIN...

GRRRR

HOW VERY...

...TER-RIBLE...

H

H

H

H

YOU'RE BLACK...

YOU'RE BLACK...

AHRRRR
HOW VERY...
...TER-RIBLE...

THE GREAT RYUJIN
HAS BECOME TAINTED. HE'S TRANSFORMING INTO A CURSED GOD!
HOW UNFORTUNATE...
...
PLEASE, RYUJIN...
LISTEN TO ME...!
LUNGE
HE CANNOT HEAR YOU NOW, EVEN AS A SACRIFICE.
STAY BACK, HIMARI!
THE BEAUTIFUL RYUJIN...
HAS BEEN CURSED
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
SLUMP

GLINT
WHAT IS THAT?
RYUJIN!
I WILL EXORCISE HIM.
SOMETHING IS CATCHING THE LIGHT.
TMP
PLEASE... WAIT...

NO
SH
NUE
HIMARI!

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER
17

Ephemeral Waters of Past and Present: Part 2

RYUJIN TRAVERSES THE SEVEN SACRED WATERFALLS THAT THE HUMAN WORLD AND SPIRITUAL REALM SHARE...
...TO MAINTAIN THE PURITY OF THE WATERS.
IN HIS BLACK-ENED SCALES...
...I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOME-THING THAT GLIMMERED.
HIMARI!
ZUSHI ...!
SHE ATE THE CANDY THAT WILL ALLOW HER TO BREATHE UNDERWATER, BUT SHE'LL BE TAKEN AWAY BY RYUJIN!
PASH
AHH!
IDIOT!
I TOLD YOU THIS TAINTED WATER EATS AWAY AT THE FLESH OF AYAKASHI!
THEN...
NUE! PLEASE BREAK MY SEAL!
DON'T BE FOOLISH.

7 WISH
I WON'T ALLOW HIM TO TAKE HIMARI.
...I WILL FACE HIS WRATH, WHATEVER THE COST MAY BE.
ZOO
TO CHALLENGE RYUJIN...
...ONE MUST BE PREPARED TO SUFFER HIS DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
HOWEVER...

NUE...
NUE, PLEASE STOP!
YOU'RE IN NO CONDITION TO BE HERE...
YUKARI!
BREAK MY SEAL.
PLEASE.

ALLOW ME...
...TO RETURN ONCE MORE TO RYUJIN.
YUKARI, YOU CANNOT ASK THAT!
WE DON'T KNOW IF RYUJIN IS ANGRY WITH YOU!
I DON'T CARE!
I NEED TO KNOW HIS TRUE FEELINGS.
GRRR
...
BE SURE YOU RETURN TO US.
...
GRRR

PLEASE.

THIS IS...

...YUKARI'S TRUE FORM.

TWO

OSH

BE APPEASED, RYUJIN!

GUARDIAN OF THE SPRING, DESCENDED FROM WATER...

MIZUCHI, THE WATER SERPENT...

...BE FREED OF MY POWER AND GO.

GUARDIAN OF THE SPRING, DESCENDED FROM WATER...
MIZUCHI, THE WATER SERPENT...
BE FREED OF MY POWER AND GO.

PLEASE.
THIS IS...
...YUKARI'S TRUE FORM.
WOOSH
BE APPEASED, RYUJIN!

RWARR
RWARRR
RR
RYUJIN!!
RYUJIN IS ANGRY WITH ME.
IT'S AS I FEARED...
GRAB
YUKARI?! IS THAT YOU?
HIMARI!
DON'T GIVE UP!

HANG ON TIGHT, HIMARI.
!
...!
I SEE IT.
THERE'S A SHINY SCALE NEAR RYUJIN'S NECK!
THAT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!

SHE
GLINT
THUSH
A PAPER SEAL?!
EEN

THE WATERS ARE CALM.
WHAT HAP-PENED?
SHAA
...
WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE?
BLUB

PLUB
PLUB
WHAT ARE THESE VISIONS?
YUKARI...
THESE ARE MY MEMORIES...
A CHILD...?
PLUB

...FROM LONG AGO...
...WHEN I WAS STILL A HUMAN CHILD.
I'M SEEING YOUR MEMO-RIES?
THIS IS HOW I BECAME AN AYAKASHI.
IT SEEMS OUR CON-SCIOUSNESSES MERGED...
...IN THE FOAM THAT OVER-FLOWED IN RYUJIN'S WAKE.
LONG AGO...
KLATT
KLATT
KLATT
STOP HERE.
IT'S TIME...
...FOR ME TO SHOW YOU EVERYTHING, HIMARI.
...AN ORPHANED BOY WITH SILVER HAIR AND BLUE EYES WAS ABANDONED IN THE RUN-DOWN CAPITAL.
KRRK

BOY...
...COME INTO MY CARRIAGE
...
KLATT
KLATT
KLATT
LOOK THERE.
UNFORTUNATE CHILDREN LIKE YOU ARE DYING ON THE ROADSIDE IN THIS CAPITAL.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
THE GOVERNMENT.
IT'S ALL THE CURRENT EMPEROR'S FAULT.
THE YOUNG BOY WAS PICKED UP BY A NOBLEMAN WHO SERVED IN THE COURT OF AN INFAMOUSLY CORRUPT EMPEROR.
YOUR FACE IS BEAUTIFUL.
LET ME BRING OUT ITS FULL POTENTIAL.
ONE DAY YOU WILL BECOME CLOSE TO THE EMPEROR AND TAKE HIS LIFE.
THE NOBLEMAN INTENDED TO RAISE THE BOY AS AN ASSASSIN
...
LET ME SEE...

WHETHER BY NATURE OR NURTURE, THE BOY GREW UP DETACHED.
HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE MISFORTUNES OF THE WORLD AROUND HIM.
I SHALL NAME YOU YUKARI.
EVENTU-ALLY...
BUT HE DID DEVELOP A SENSE OF LOYALTY TO THE MAN WHO RAISED HIM.
...HE WOULD RESOLVE TO ASSASSINATE THE EMPEROR.
GOOD, YUKARI.
AT THE AGE OF 14...
...HE DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A PRINCESS RELATED TO THE NOBLE-MAN.

THE BOY WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE INNER PALACE.
THE BOY SOON BECAME THE OBJECT OF THE EMPEROR'S ADORATION.
THE EMPEROR, WHO DELIGHTED IN RARITIES, TOOK ONE LOOK...
...AND WAS INSTANTLY CAPTIVATED.
...THE BOY PLANNED TO ASSAS-SINATE HIM AND ESCAPE WITHOUT LEAVING A TRACE.
ONCE HE WAS ALONE WITH THE EMPEROR...
NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT THE NOBLE-MAN'S INVOLVE-MENT.

YUKARI
THE EMPEROR WAS SEEN BY ALL AS A FOOL WHO MADE HIS PEOPLE SUFFER...
...YOU SEEM SO CALM. IT'S AS IF YOU ARE FAR REMOVED FROM THE SUFFERING OF THIS WORLD
WITH YOUR OTHER-WORLDLY LOOKS
THEN ONE DAY...
YOU SUMMONED ME, YOUR HIGHNESS
THE BOY'S FEELINGS BEGAN TO WAVER.
...BUT HE WAS A YOUNG MAN WITH A KIND HEART...
CRUSHED BY THE WEIGHT OF HIS DUTY.
TIME PASSED AS THE BOY WAITED FOR THE OPPORTUNITY.
YUKARI
YUKARI, LET ME LAY MY HEAD ON YOUR LAP
AS YOU PLEASE

YOUR HIGH-NESS!
...
YUKARI ?
YOU MUST FLEE FROM HERE.
...WHO CONSPIRED WITH THE NOBLEMAN.
WE HAVE PROOF YOU ARE AN IMPOSTER...
DON'T MOVE!
DISH
I WISH...
...I WERE LIKE YOU...
THUP

AN ENEMY OF THE NOBLEMAN HAD SET A PLAN IN MOTION TO FRAME YUKARI FOR THE EMPEROR'S MURDER.
DESPERATE TO PRESERVE HIS LIFE...
...YUKARI LOST CONTROL.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHO DID THIS?
WHAT ---
!
THE UTTER CARNAGE...
...STOPPED THE SOLDIERS IN THEIR TRACKS.

"ONE WHO EATS HUMAN FLESH!
"THIS CHILD IS A DEMON!
IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF, THE NOBLEMAN SAID...
"INSTEAD OF HOLDING A TRIAL, WE SHOULD SACRIFICE THIS ABOMINATION IN THE SWAMP OF RYUJIN!"
YUKARI'S PAST...
...HE ALLOWED ME TO SINK QUIETLY TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS SPRING.
LATER ON I REALIZED THE NOBLEMAN WAS BEING COMPASSIONATE. RATHER THAN MAKING A PUBLIC DISPLAY OF ME...

SHALL I MAKE YOU AN AYAKASHI...?
RYUJIN SAVED ME...
...AND ALLOWED ME TO BE REBORN AS ONE OF HIS OWN KIND—A WATER SERPENT.
I SHOULD HAVE DIED THERE.
YOU...

I HAD NOTHING TO DO BUT WATCH TIME FLOW ON.
ONE DAY HE CAME TO THESE FALLS AND SAID...
RYUJIN MUST HAVE TAKEN PITY ON ME.
I NEVER KNEW WHY.
FOR A LONG TIME I WAS ALONE IN THIS SPRING.
I OBEYED AND LEFT FOR MOMOCHI HOUSE.
LATER I MET AOI AND BECAME HIS SHIKIGAMI.
GO TO MOMOCHI HOUSE.
"GO THERE AND DON'T RETURN."
HE SAID, "IT'S ABANDONED AND IN RUINS NOW, BUT THAT WILL CHANGE.
I'VE RETURNED HERE SEVERAL TIMES SINCE...

...BUT I HAVE NEVER SEEN RYUJIN.
ALWAYS ...
...I'VE WANTED TO ASK HIM WHY HE SENT ME...
...TO MOMOCHI HOUSE.
AM I DEFYING HIS WISHES...?
I THINK HE SENT YOU AWAY...
...BECAUSE HE THOUGHT YOU WERE LONELY.

LONELY?
ME...?
...
YOU WERE HERE BY YOURSELF FOR A LONG TIME.
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOU WERE LONELY.
THAT'S WHY HE TOLD YOU TO GO TO MOMOCHI HOUSE WHERE THERE WOULD BE OTHERS.
...
...ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS ANGRY WITH ME.
I'VE...
"LONELY."
LOOK-ING BACK...
...I CAN UNDERSTAND.
IN THAT HOUSE...

I MET AOI.
THEN ISE AND THE OTHERS CAME.
AND HIMARI... YOU CAME.
I SEE IT NOW.
I WAS LONELY.

"LONELY"...

GURGLE

YES...

YOUR HEART... WAS LONELY.

"LONELY"...
GURGLE
YES...
YOUR HEART... WAS LONELY.

CLEAR WATER IS A SIGN OF MY SOLITUDE.

...I MUST NOT INTERACT WITH OTHERS.

I MUST KEEP THE WATERS CLEAR.

I SAW THE SAME COLOR REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES.

BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU BY SIMPLY MAKING YOU AN AYAKASHI.

I WISHED TO EASE YOUR SOLITUDE.

FLOWING THROUGHOUT TIME IS MY FATE.

THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES WAS FRIGHTENINGLY CLEAR.

YUKARI...

WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, I FELT WE SHARED THE SAME SOUL.

YET THEY WERE ALSO TERRIBLY EMPTY.

WATER MUST FLOW.

IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE WORLD'S TRUTH AND CRUELTY, AND EVEN OF MAN'S FATE.

THAT IS WHY...

MY FATE IS TO ROAM BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS TO KEEP THE WATERS CLEAN.

I WANTED TO SEE YOU REBORN AS AN AYAKASHI.

YUKARI...
THE COLOR OF YOUR EYES WAS FRIGHTENINGLY CLEAR.
WHEN I FIRST SAW YOU, I FELT WE SHARED THE SAME SOUL.
YET THEY WERE ALSO TERRIBLY EMPTY.
WATER MUST FLOW.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU REBORN AS AN AYAKASHI.
IT IS A REFLECTION OF THE WORLD'S TRUTH AND CRUELTY, AND EVEN OF MAN'S FATE.
THAT IS WHY...
MY FATE IS TO ROAM BETWEEN THE TWO WORLDS TO KEEP THE WATERS CLEAN.

CLEAR WATER IS A SIGN OF MY SOLITUDE.
...I MUST NOT INTERACT WITH OTHERS.
I MUST KEEP THE WATERS CLEAR.
I SAW THE SAME COLOR REFLECTED IN YOUR EYES.
FLOWING THROUGHOUT TIME IS MY FATE.
I WISHED TO EASE YOUR SOLITUDE.
BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU BY SIMPLY MAKING YOU AN AYAKASHI.

RYUJIN...
I COULDN'T BE WITH YOU ALL THE TIME.
I CLOSED MY EYES.
I CLOSED MY EARS.
MY BODY GRADUALLY TURNED HARD, LIKE STONE.
SO I CONTINUED TO ROAM...
...IN A WAY YOU WOULDN'T SEE ME.
I CLOSED OFF MY HEART.
I THOUGHT MOMOCHI HOUSE WOULD EASE YOUR SOLITUDE...
..SO I SENT YOU AWAY.
YOU ARE LOYAL. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO HAVE DOUBTS.

SCENE
AT SOME POINT I WAS CURSED BY SOME WRETCHED DEMON
I FORGOT WHO I WAS, AND I BECAME THAT MISERABLE CURSED CREATURE
...BUT I RECOVERED IT BY COMMUNING WITH YOURS.
THIS CAME ABOUT BECAUSE I LOST SIGHT OF MY SOUL
WHO WOULD HAVE REASON TO HARM YOU?
IT MATTERS NOT

THE WATER IS TURNING CLEAR!
WATER SHOULD NOT FLOW WITHOUT FEELING...
RYUJIN.
YUKARI, SERVE YOUR NEW MASTER AT MOMOCHI HOUSE WITH YOUR HEART AND SOUL.
I WILL CONTINUE TO ROAM THESE WATERS.
...AND BECOMES CRYSTAL CLEAR.
WATER FILLS ONE'S SOLITUDE

RYUJIN!
WATER FLOWS, BUT IT CAN ALSO BE STORED!
HIMARI?
SO...
UM, I MEAN...
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR WATER CLEAN!
IT'S ALWAYS NEAR US.
I'M SURE...
...WE'LL ALWAYS BE CONNECTED BY IT.

YOUR JOURNEY WILL BE A LITTLE LESS LONELY.
YES...
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, HIMARI...!
RYUJIN...
ALWAYS.
I PROMISE...
PLEASE LET ME HEAR YOUR VOICE WHEN YOU RETURN TO THESE WATERS.
I'LL ALWAYS COME TO SEE YOU.
...TO ALWAYS SEE YOU AGAIN.

THEN UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN...!
...
AHH...

SPLASH
DASH
HIMARI!
YUKARI!
FWON
PLK
...

I'VE RETURNED TO YOU.
SHFF
NUE.
I, YUKARI...
...THE WATER SERPENT ...
...WILL SERVE YOU AND YOU ALONE.

I'M SORRY I WORRIED YOU.
I...
I WASN'T WORRIED.
YOU ARE MY FIRST SHIKIGAMI.
NUE...
GLARE
HOW-EVER...
HUH?!
YOU ARE DIFFERENT, HIMARI.

I WILL PUNISH YOU LATER.
WHAT?
I TOLD YOU...
...NOT TO BE RECKLESS.
BUT... IT ALL ENDED UP OKAY.
LET'S GO HOME.

Chapter 17/End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Chapter 18

Enjoying the Cool Evening Breeze?! A Scare Dare

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

EEEK!
FWUFF
GYA HA HA
FWUFF
WHAT IS THIS?
YOU NEVER LISTEN, AND THEN YOU GET YOURSELF IN TROUBLE.

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TIE YOU UP.
I may need another fox for your legs.
PWOP
NO WAY!

I SAID YOU'D BE PUNISHED.
PEEK

FWUFF
NOOO!
I'M TICKLISH!
DON'T TRY TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT.
FWUFF
FWUFF
POIT

UH...
BUT EVERY-THING WAS RESOLVED, SO-
YOU MEAN WHAT THE NUE SAID?!

SHUFF
DON'T YOU KNOW...
...I GENUINELY WORRY ABOUT YOU?
HIMARI?
I...
...HAVE TO GET TO SCHOOL!
ZIP
SHE ESCAPED ...
TROMP TROMP
BLUSH

HE THINKS I'M RECKLESS...
...BUT I DIDN'T ENDANGER MYSELF ON PURPOSE.
AOI IS TOO PROTECTIVE, JUST LIKE YUKARI.
MOMOCHI!
?
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL IS TALKING ABOUT YOU!
TALKING?
HIDAKA REALLY LIGHTENED UP!
SOME GIRL TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT.
ZOOP
PLEASE! HELP ME WITH MY PROBLEMS!
ARE THERE ANY SPELLS THAT WORK?
CAN YOU GIVE ME ONE OF THOSE PAPER SEALS?
WHOA! WHAT'S GOING ON, EVERYONE?!
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPERSING HIS CURSE!
OH, THAT...
HIDAKA THINKS IT WAS ME...
WHO KNEW YOU WERE A SPIRITUAL PRIESTESS!
WHAT?!

HOW DID THEY COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?
MY BOYFRIEND CHEATED ON ME TWICE! CAN YOU UNCURSE ME?
WHAT'S MY LUCKY COLOR THIS MONTH?
MY SHOULDER'S REALLY BEEN BOTHERING ME!
WHAT ABOUT HELP ON THE ENGLISH TEST TOMORROW?
WAIT! I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS! HONEST!
TAP
IT'S TERRIBLE YOUR BOYFRIEND IS CHEATING.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT A LUCKY COLOR, BUT YOU LOOK GOOD IN GREEN.
YOU SHOULD ROTATE YOUR SHOULDERS LIKE THIS! IT WORKS!
THE TEACHER SAID TO STUDY PAGES 12 THROUGH 20!
AYAKASHI AND SPIRITS ARE DANGEROUS.
YOU SHOULDN'T MESS WITH THEM.
RIGHT, AOI?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH A BOOK, HIMARI?
SHUT UP! I READ SOMETIMES.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THEM, BUT...
WHAT'S THIS?
100 TRIED AND TRUE SPELLS?
AOI...!!
FLIP

WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S...
I TRIED MY BEST TO DISPEL THOSE RUMORS, BUT...
YOU TOUCHED ME—AND HE STOPPED CHEATING!
I SENT IN A POSTCARD WITH A GREEN STAMP ON IT AND WON A PRIZE!
MY SHOULDER FEELS A LOT BETTER THANKS TO YOUR SPELL!
YOU WERE EXACTLY RIGHT ABOUT THE TEST!
THINGS WORKED OUT BY COINCIDENCE, AND NOW THOSE RUMORS ARE SPREADING EVEN MORE!
AND THE PROBLEMS ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE SERIOUS.
I told them I didn't have special powers
AHHHH
MOMOCHI, LISTEN TO MY PROBLEMS, WILL YA?
MOMOCHI, I NEED YOUR HELP!
STAMPEDE
DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS, OKAY?
B-BMP
This book is useless
CAN'T YOU JUST REFUSE?
I'M A TRANSFER STUDENT, SO I WANT TO BE APPROACH-ABLE...
Even if it's just for show.

THEY SAY THAT RUMORS LAST NO MORE THAN 75 DAYS...
A SCARE DARE?
YEAH! IT'S A GOOD WAY TO MAKE MEMORIES IN THE SUMMER.
ON THE NIGHT OF THE NEXT NEW MOON, WE'RE GOING TO THAT HUMAN-FACED BOULDER ON THE RENGE MOUNTAIN PASS.
WE WANT THE SPIRITUAL PRIESTESS TO COME WITH US AS OUR BODYGUARD!
I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY SPIRITUAL POWERS...
HIDAKA! WILL YOU COME IF MOMOCHI DOES?
HUH?
HM...
OKAY. I'LL GO.
HUH?
YAY!
YES!

WAS THIS JUST A PLOY TO GET HAYATO TO COME ALONG?
HIMARI.
HM?
SORRY, I THINK THESE RUMORS ARE SPREADING BECAUSE OF ME.
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP.
OH
HUH? NO, THAT'S OKAY...
HOW CAN I REFUSE NOW...?!
SO, THAT'S WHY...
...I AGREED TO GO ON THE SCARE DARE.
PEEK

I'M AGAINST IT.
I KNEW HE'D SAY THAT.
YOUR MOMOCHI BLOOD AGITATES AYAKASHI.
A SCARE DARE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.
UM...
I'M SURE IF ANYTHING DANGEROUS HAPPENS IT'LL BE CALLED OFF.
AND ...
...IT'S TOO SOON AFTER THE FOX-MASK INCIDENT.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HAYATO COMING ALONG.
JOLT
HAYATO...?

HM...
SO YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT HAYATO.
I SEE...
OKAY THEN!
WILL YOU GIVE ME A LUCKY CHARM LIKE LAST TIME?
NO, I DON'T WANT TO.
WHAT ...?!
I'M AGAINST YOU GOING ON THIS SCARE DARE.
I WON'T HELP YOU THIS TIME.
SLAM
AOI...?!

NIGHT OF THE SCARE DARE
THE BOULDER WITH A HUMAN FACE WILL SPEAK ON THE NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON.
WE HAVE TO CLIMB RENRI MOUNTAIN PASS WITH JUST ONE SINGLE CANDLE.
HUH?
B-BMP
HUH? WE HAVE NO IDEA.
WHAT WAS THAT OLD SUPERSTITION ABOUT RENRI PASS?
I MEANT RENRI PASS, SORRY.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID IT WAS RENGE PASS.
ONLY ONE LIT CANDLE ON THIS DARK ROAD...?
COME ON, LET'S GO!
ZWF
TMP
TMP
TMP
AOI...

AOI.
TMP
TMP
TMP
I'M THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING.
WHY ARE YOU PACING BACK AND FORTH?
REMEMBER...
...THAT PAPER SEAL ON RYUJIN'S BODY THE OTHER DAY?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
...
I NOTICE YOU KEEP FLIPPING TO THAT SAME PAGE.
IT'S BEEN ON MY MIND AS WELL.
IT'S NOT...
...THAT I'M WORRIED...
RENGE PASS IS INHABITED BY A BENEVOLENT AYAKASHI.
THAT PLACE MAY NOT BE EVEN SCARY ENOUGH FOR A SCARE DARE.
I REALIZE THAT, BUT...
...

I'M GLAD HE'S WITH HER.
AND I CAN'T BE WITH HIMARI WHEN SHE'S OUTSIDE THE HOUSE.
...HAYATO IS A GOOD GUY.
I KNOW...
BUT...
WHAT IS THIS FEELING...?
HEY, MOMOCHI, DO YOU...
PSST
IS HE STILL MAD?
NO ANSWER.
I'm in sleep mode...
TAP
TAP
TAP

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IT'S NOT AS SCARY WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE.
SO YOU DO. WHAT'S HE LIKE?
...LIKE SOMEONE?
WHAT?!
KYUP
HUH?
HE'S NICE.
A LITTLE SPOILED, MAYBE...
BUT COOL TOO.
SOMETIMES AT CRITICAL MOMENTS, HE GOES QUIET...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW...
...WHAT HE'S LIKE.
I...
I'M TALKING ABOUT AOI...

HEY.
HM...
HUH?!
HIDAKA? NO...!
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT HIDAKA?
OH...
HIMARI, IT'S DARK. STAY CLOSE TO ME. ARE YOU OKAY?
AH, OKAY.
I'M SENSING A WEIRD VIBE.
SHAAA
SOMETHING COLD WRAPPED AROUND MY LEG!
HELP ME, MOMOCHI!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
EEEEK!
ZWFF ZWFF
?!
SHOVE
HUH? WHERE...

EEEEK!
SOMETHING'S PULLING MY HAIR!
I'M FINE. THEY WERE JUST TOADS!
GLIK
OOPS, SORRY.
GO HELP HER, MOMOCHI!
TH
UD
?!
SHOOP
ICK! THESE WEEDS ARE STICKY!
NOTHING. MOMOCHI IS JUST BEING DRAMATIC.
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
SLIP
AH!
SHOOP
...WATCH YOUR STEP.
MOMOCHI ...
HEE HEE
YOU'RE SO ACCIDENT-PRONE!
OH DEAR!
HEE
HEE
ARE YOU OKAY?

RAGGU
IT JUST... HAPPENED.
NO, I'LL BE FINE. ABSOLUTELY!
YOU'RE WHY THEY'RE DOING THIS!
COME UP FRONT WITH ME.
IT'S DARK AND EASY TO LOSE YOUR STEP IN THE BACK.
OH
LOOK.
LOOK, THERE'S THE BOULDER. WE'RE AT THE TOP.
THANK GOOD-NESS!

NO. THE SPELL WON'T WORK UNLESS THE FACE ON IT LAUGHS...
OH
WE DID IT! WE GOT UP HERE USING ONLY A SINGLE CANDLE!
TMP
TMP
TMP
IF WE'RE DONE...
...LET'S HEAD BACK. THE CANDLE IS ALMOST GONE.
THIS IS THE...
..."HUMAN FACE"...
HUH? I'M NOT INTER-ESTED...
BUT THE STATUE MIGHT LAUGH.
SURG
BUT...
OH
TUG
TUG
It kind of looks like a face but not really.
NO, I'M GOOD.
HIDAKA, LET'S GO CLOSER... TOGETHER.

SHOVE
WATCH OUT...!
HIMARI!
GEH
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

IT'S LAUGHING...
IT...
...MUST BE THE WIND.
WHOSE VOICE IS THAT?
AH!
KRAK KRAK KRAK
?!
GEH
THE BOULDER IS LAUGHING...
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH. I'M FINE.
HUH?
YOU HURT YOUR HAND.
YEAH. WHAT WAS THAT?
ARE YOU OKAY, HIMARI?

ZWAA
LET'S GO BACK!
GEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
DON'T LOOK BACK. WATCH YOUR STEP.
IT'S SO DARK! I CAN'T SEE!
THAT LAUGH IS FOLLOWING US...!
WHAT IS THIS LAUGHTER? IS IT FROM AN AYAKASHI?
BUT IT SOUNDS SO STRANGE.
I CAN HEAR ITS LAUGHTER TOO.
CAN YOU SEE IT, HIMARI?
NO...
...I CAN ONLY HEAR IT.
GEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
THUD
SHW
NOMOTO !

I CAN'T HAN-DLE THIS!
SOB
WE DIDN'T THINK THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
CALM DOWN, EVERYONE!
GEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
THE VOICE IS EVERY-WHERE, BUT I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
GEH
HEH
HEH
ARE YOU HURT? CAN YOU WALK?
IT'S NOT MY FAULT THE BOULDER IS LAUGHING...! IT'S SO CREEPY!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
HEH
HEH
HEH

LET'S GO TO MOMOCHI HOUSE.

GEH
WHAT KIND OF AYAKASHI IS THIS?
HEH
HEH
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

HUH?
HUH?!
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
YOU MEAN WE CAN GO TO YOUR HOUSE?
PLUS MY HOUSE IS FAR AWAY–
SHAAA
MOMOCHI!... HOUSE...?
WHY ARE WE SO CLOSE?

GEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
PLEASE, MOMOCHI!
LET US IN.
I'M SCARED!
HAYATO ...
OKAY.
I'M WALKING DOWN THE HILL. I'LL BE BACK WITH LIGHTS AND A CART.
HAVE THEM REST IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
OKAY... COME IN!

PSST
STOP IT!
PSST
LIKE A HAUNTED HOUSE...
IT'S SO OLD... I MEAN HUGE.
THE LAUGHTER STOPPED...
WOW!
TMP
TMP

THE HOUSE IS SILENT.
KLAK
EVERYONE MUST BE ASLEEP.
I'LL GO MAKE SOME TEA.
YOU CAN REST IN HERE.
THANKS! BUT DON'T GO TO ANY TROUBLE.
DON'T STEP EVEN ONE FOOT...
...OUTSIDE THIS ROOM, OKAY?
KLAK
I SHOULDN'T WAKE UP AOI...
SIGH
...
WHAT'S WITH HER?
SHE'S CLEARLY TRYING TO SCARE US.
HUH?
NOMOTO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE SICK.

THE VOICE WAS COMING FROM HER.
WHAT?!
I'M TOTALLY FINE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS.
THAT VOICE WAS MASTER-MINDED BY MOMOCHI.
THAT WAS AN ACT.
I WAS HOPING HIDAKA WOULD CARRY ME.
WOW. BUT AREN'T YOU SCARED?
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?
I'M SURE SHE USED THAT TO SCARE US.
I SAW HER PLAYING WITH A PHONE IN A WOODEN CASE.
SHE DEFINITELY HAS HIDAKA FOOLED.
SHE RUINED THE SPELL OF THE HUMAN-FACED BOULDER...
KLAK
YEAH!
Y-YEAH... THEN HIDAKA WILL REALIZE...
LET'S PROVE SHE'S NOT A SPIRITUAL PRIESTESS AND TELL EVERYONE THE TRUTH.
TMP

IT'S CREEPY...
ISN'T IT COOL FOR SUMMER?
THEY MUST HAVE THE AC ON. YOU'RE FREAKING YOURSELF OUT.
TMP
TMP
WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE? HER BAG IS OUT THERE.
I SWEAR I SAW IT...
THAT WAS JUST A BRANCH.
OUTSIDE! SOMEONE WAS HANGING UPSIDE DOWN!
STOP SCREAMING!
JOLT
GYAAAAAH!

HEY...
DO YOU HEAR SLOW...
FOOT-STEPS?
TMP
SOMETHING COLD JUST TOUCHED MY SHOUL-DER...
THIS HOUSE IS SO OLD. MAYBE IT'S A LEAKY ROOF!
I HEAR FOOTSTEPS. THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER!
TMP TMP TMP
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
WAIT! THERE'S NO SUCH THINGS AS-

EEEEEK
THUD
?
THE THE THE THE
WHAT IS GOING ON?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO EVERYONE?!
YOUR FRIENDS WERE A LITTLE TOO RAMBUNCTIOUS, SO WE GAVE THEM A LITTLE SCARE. YOU DON'T MIND, DO YOU?
THAT FELT GOOD!
THIS IS SLEEPING INCENSE. THEY WON'T REMEMBER A THING.
OH...

NEVER MIND THAT.
I'M SORRY!
SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HAVE FRIENDS OVER SO LATE...
THE NUE IS FURIOUS...
WHERE DID YOU PICK THAT UP?

FOOSH
?!
HUH?
GEH
HEH
VONK
HEH
HEH
IS THIS FROM THAT ROCK?!
?!

GEH HEH
HIMARI ...
HEH
IS THIS THE VOICE THAT FOLLOWED ME?!
HEH
YOU TOLD ME RENGE PASS.
BUT YOU WENT TO RENRI PASS.
THAT SPELL-
IS TO CONSUM-MATE ♥ LOVE!☆
WHAT?!
THOSE WHO TOUCH THE STONE TOGETHER...
...MUST KISS WITHIN ONE WEEK OR...
...DIE.

Chapter 18 End

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

CHAPTER 19

Jealousy and Love

SO THIS MARK...
...IS A CURSE?
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A LOVE SPELL... I THINK IT HAPPENED BY ACCIDENT.
IF YOU SAY SO, IT MUST BE TRUE, HIMARI.
Well, um.. I think so.
AOI IS TRYING TO BREAK IT, BUT IT'S NOT EASY.
KISS...
...OR DIE.
PWOP
HEY...
STAY DOWN.
THEN...

SWIP
WE'D BETTER KISS.
REALLY?!
WHAT?!
HAYATO DOESN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS...
BULL'S EYE
"WELL...
"IT'S BETTER THAN DYING, RIGHT?"
THAT'S SOMETHING HAYATO WOULD SAY.

HUH?!
I'M NOT TREMBLING!
WHAT IS IT, HIMARI?
SHUT UP!
HMM. ☆ COULD IT BE YOU'VE NEVER-
DON'T BE MISSISH! IT'S A KISS, SO GET IT OVER WITH.
HMPH.
THEN WHY ARE YOU TREMBLING, ISE?
KISS!
KISS! WOO HOO! What a cool curse.

IS IT DIFFICULT BECAUSE YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM?

I'LL BREAK THE CURSE.
IN ANY CASE...
THOK
HUH? DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD?
...
THE AIR SUDDENLY GOT COOLER WITHOUT AC. HOW "GREEN" OF YOU, ZUSHI.

HUH? OH... OKAY.
SHUP
OKAY?
HIMARI, STAY AWAY FROM HAYATO.
IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE...
DONG
DONG
DONG
ARE YOU JEALOUS, AOI?
SWIP
ISE, CAN YOU CHECK SOMETHING FOR ME?
IS IT POSSIBLE?

!
BUMP
SHOOP
I'M SUPPOSED TO AVOID HAYATO, BUT HE'S A CLASS-MATE.
HAYATO...!
HIMARI.
ARE YOU AVOIDING ME?
HAYATO...
?!
LOOM
NO, NOT REALLY...
HUH?
B-BUMP

DON'T DISAPPEAR ON ME...
VUM
OXOXOX!!
IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
I KNOW
...WHY HAYATO IS ON MY MIND
IT'S HIS EYES

DON'T DISAPPEAR.
HE SEES AOI THROUGH ME.
IF HE'S STILL...
.. TRYING TO FIND
...THOSE THREADS OF HIS LOST MEMORIES
I WANT TO WATCH OVER HIM UNTIL HE AND AOI CAN MEET AGAIN.
MRNR MRNR..
TMP
I'LL GET SOME WATER AND TRY TO GO BACK TO SLEEP
IT'S SO LATE, BUT THE LIGHT IS STILL ON.
YUKARI AND..
AOI?
THEN...

...THE CURSE FROM THAT STONE CANNOT BE UNDONE WITHIN ONE WEEK.
OH
THERE MUST BE A WAY.
WE HAVE TO OVERRIDE IT WITH A STRONGER SPELL.

...
BUT ONLY A GREAT DEMON CAN OVERRIDE THIS CURSE. WE DO NOT EVEN KNOW WHO AUTHORED THAT PAPER SEAL...
...
HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO COMES TO MIND.
STILL...

SHOULD I JUST GO UP TO HIM AND SAY, "LET'S KISS!"?
TMP
OR SHOULD I TRY TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING?
TMP
AARGH!
TMP
I'LL RESEARCH IT A LITTLE FURTHER. IF ALL ELSE FAILS...
...I MAY HAVE TO CROSS OVER TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM.
THE SPIRITUAL REALM?
GRIP
I DON'T WANT TO PUT AOI IN DANGER.
SHMP
SHMP
WHERE IS HAYATO WHEN I NEED HIM?
I WANT TO BE DECISIVE, BUT...

BUMP
EEK!
!
S...
SORRY.
OH.
NOMOTO.
MOMOCHI
...
PSST
...
SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY...
...AT THE SCARE DARE.
WHAT ?
YOUR HAND.
THAT WAS MY FAULT.
OH, THIS? IT'S NOTHING.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT THAT NIGHT.
MAYBE I JUST IMAGINED THAT BOULDER LAUGHING AND PANICKED.
THEY DON'T REMEMBER BEING INSIDE MOMOCHI HOUSE.

UGH
OH...
I NEVER HEARD THAT SUPERSTI-TION.
CHILDISH, HUH?
THAT'S WHY WE INVITED YOU. YOU'RE GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM.
WE WANTED IT TO TRY IT WITH HIDAKA.
TO BE HONEST, WE KNEW ABOUT THAT OLD SUPERSTITION. A COUPLE WHO TOUCHES THAT BOULDER TOGETHER WILL BE UNITED.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M IN THIS MESS.
BUT...
...I'M KIND OF OVER IT AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.
RATHER THAN RELYING ON SUPERSTITIONS AND BEING SUSPICIOUS OF OTHERS...
...IT'S BETTER TO JUST TELL THE ONE YOU LOVE HOW YOU FEEL.
I'LL PROBABLY FEEL A LOT BETTER THAT WAY.

KREEE
I FEEL BAD FOR GETTING YOU TWO INTO THIS MESS. I'LL TELL HIDAKA HOW I FEEL ABOUT HIM ONCE THINGS SETTLE DOWN.
SORRY, MOMOCHI...
...AND THANKS.
SURE.
SHE'S RIGHT.
MY OWN FEELINGS...

I THOUGHT YOU'D COME ABOUT NOW...
...AOI.

...
YOU SOUND AS IF YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE INVOLVED SOMEHOW...
TAK
TAK
TAK
...KASHA.
SHFF
DO YOU KNOW THE CREATOR OF THIS PAPER SEAL?
...WHEN WE ENCOUNTERED RYUJIN.
IT'S JUST LIKE THE MYSTERIOUS SEAL WE FOUND...
ONE OF MY SHIKIGAMI FOUND IT STUCK TO THE BACK OF A STONE WITH A HUMANLIKE FACE.
THE CHILDISH SUPERSTITION ABOUT THIS STONE HAS GROWN INTO A POWERFUL CURSE BECAUSE OF THIS SPELL.
I CAN'T REVERSE IT.
TELL ME, WHO IS THE TRUE MASTER OF THE SEAL?

NOW, AOI...
...IS THAT HOW YOU ASK SOMEONE FOR A FAVOR?
I'M NOT ASKING.
YOU OWE ME FOR THAT "PILLOW" INCIDENT.
PILLOW? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
KASHA!
TRANSFORM INTO THE NUE FIRST.
...
THEN WE CAN TALK.

EVEN AMONGST THE AYAKASHI ...
YOU CAN HELP ME JUST AS YOU ARE...
...HE HAS AN ETHEREAL QUALITY.
YOU ARE TRULY BEAUTIFUL.
A CROSS BETWEEN THE EXOTIC AND BESTIAL.
...NUE.
BEEE

EACH CANDLE IN THIS ROOM...

...REPRESENTS A HUMAN LIFE.

IT'S SIMPLE, YOU SEE.

THE ONES NEAR EACH OTHER ARE LIVES THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER BY SOME TWIST OF FATE.

IT MATTERS NOT IF THE CANDLES ARE LONG OR SHORT. DIFFERENT COLORS REFLECT DIFFERENT LIFE SPANS.

EACH CANDLE IN THIS ROOM...
...REPRESENTS A HUMAN LIFE.

IT'S SIMPLE, YOU SEE.
THE ONES NEAR EACH OTHER ARE LIVES THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER BY SOME TWIST OF FATE.
IT MATTERS NOT IF THE CANDLES ARE LONG OR SHORT. DIFFERENT COLORS REFLECT DIFFERENT LIFE SPANS.

SELECT TWO AND SWITCH THEIR FATES.
TOK
I DON'T CARE WHICH ONES
THERE'S NO REASON TO KNOW IF THE OUTCOME IS GOOD OR BAD
TAKE THE FLAME AT THE TOP OF THE CANDLE
SHU
AND CHANGE ITS COURSE A LITTLE

THAT IS THE ROLE OF A DEMON.
TOK
SO...
...YOU CHOSE THESE TWO.
SHFF
HEH
PHOO

YOU BASTARD...
IT'S ALL A GAME.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
MAN CANNOT CHANGE THE FATE OF MAN.
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
...
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A HUMAN.
YOU PICKED THEM.

YOU'RE USUALLY SO OBSTINATE.
THAT STONE'S LOVE CURSE...
YOUR FACE TURNED ASHEN WHEN YOU HEARD THE BOY AND GIRL WOULD BE CURSED UNTIL DEATH.
THE KISS IS A CONTRACT.
ONCE MADE...
...THEIR LOVE WILL BE CONSUMMATED IN DEATH.
I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE TAKEN TEN LIVES...
I WILL NULLIFY THE CURSE AS PROMISED.
...BUT I DO OWE YOU FOR THE PILLOW, SO WE'LL CALL IT EVEN.
LET'S SAY... THE MARKS ON THEIR HANDS WILL WASH OFF IN THE HOT SPRINGS OF KUSATSU.
HEH
HEH

YOU LED ME TO BELIEVE...
I HEAR EVERYTHING THAT GOES ON WITH YOU, THAT IS ALL.
I SAID NOTHING OF THE SEAL.
...
...?!
BUT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHO CREATED THAT SEAL.
BUT...
...I'M NOT PLEASED A HUMAN IS MEDDLING IN AYAKASHI AFFAIRS.

SO THE CREATOR OF THAT SEAL IS HUMAN...
SLASH
I'M HOME...!
SNIFF
HUFF
HUFF

WELCOME HOME, HIMARI.
YOU'RE EARLY TODAY.
I'M GOING BACK OUT...
...BUT FIRST...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU, AOI.
Yay!
WHERE ...
...IS EVERYONE?
THEY'RE ALL EXCITED. THEY GOT A WATER-MELON.
YOU'D BETTER HURRY BEFORE IT'S ALL GONE.
WHAT?

TOK
OH, HIMARI.
B-BMP
SHFF
LET ME SEE YOUR HAND.
NOTH-ING.
BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE CURSE ANYMORE.
HUH?
IT'S STILL THERE...
IS HE TRYING TO PUT ME AT EASE?
...
THE REASON I CAN'T JUST KISS HAYATO...

...IS BECAUSE I'M SUPPRESSING MY TRUE FEELINGS...
...THINKING THINGS LIKE, "WE LIVE TOGETHER," OR...
..."I DON'T KNOW HIM THAT WELL YET."
THEY'RE JUST EXCUSES.
I'LL NEVER FIND THE PREFECT TIME.
WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME WATER-MELON?
SPLASH
PHOO
OKAY.
AOI...!!

I'LL SET MY FEELINGS FREE.
WHAT IS IT, HIMARI?
I...
UM
UM
...
I...
I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS FAMILY.
...WHAT I SAID THE OTHER DAY?
REMEMBER...
I'LL TELL HIM HOW I FEEL.

I'M TRULY IN LOVE WITH YOU.

I'M TRULY
IN LOVE
WITH YOU.

AOI...!
HIMARI...

I'M SORRY.
I CAN'T SEE YOU IN THAT WAY.
HUH?

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

This is volume 5 of Momochi House.
Yukari's past is revealed. But as soon as the light shines on something, shadows emerge as well.
Many things will befall our residents going forward, but more than anything, Momochi House is a home. I hope they can find solace there.
Thank you for your continued support.
Until we meet again in Volume 6!

石沼あや
Aya Shouoto

The DEMON PRINCE of MOMOCHI HOUSE

Choosing a character for the cover became quite a challenge by volume 5. It was time for Kasha to make an appearance. Yokai were very popular in the Edo period. I strove to portray horror with the stylish flair of that era.

-Aya Shouoto

Aya Shouoto was born on December 25. Her hobbies are traveling, staying at hotels, sewing and daydreaming. She currently lives in Tokyo and enjoys listening to J-pop anime theme songs while she works.

The Demon Prince of Momochi House

Volume 5
Shojo Beat Edition

Story and Art by Aya Shouoto

Translation JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering Inori Fukuda Trant
Design Fawn Lau
Editor Nancy Thistlethwaite

MOMOCHISANCHI NO AYAKASHI OUJI Volume 5
© Aya SHOUOTO 2014
Edited by KADOKAWA SHOTEN
First published in Japan in 2014 by KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, July 2016

VIZ media
www.viz.com

RATED T FOR TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
THE DEMON PRINCE OF MOMOCHI HOUSE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up.
ratings.viz.com

Shojo Beat
www.shojobeat.com